



DURRINGTON
HIGH SCHOOL



DAVISON



WORTHING
HIGH SCHOOL



BOHUNT
WORTHING



St
Andrew's
NIHIL SINE LABORE

GPs and schools working in partnership to ensure the very best support for children across Worthing.

Dear Parents/carers,

We are writing to you collectively representing the six secondary schools and GP practices across the Worthing area. If you are receiving this letter, it is because your child's school has joined our partnership and is part of our local professional team who work together to support all school-aged children.

Schools and GP practices in Worthing started meeting approximately once a term in 2018. The aim of this group is to find ways to support our young people in a collaborative way. We have consistently found, in situations where it is believed that medical issues are felt to be a potential barrier to regular school attendance, that by working jointly and closely with families we (schools and medical professionals) are able to find a way forward in the best interests of the child and family.

We have recently re grouped as the pandemic restrictions have eased and have already begun discussions about some of the new challenges that our children appear to be facing. We recognise and understand the challenges that individual children face can appear to be many and varied and sometimes also extend into those adults in the children's life too. However, the expectation remains that all school age children attend school on a regular basis. This expectation is supported in full by all medical staff, schools and both local and national government.

Moving forward, to support attendance, both GPs and school staff will make it a high priority, whenever a concern is raised regarding a medical worry or issue that is perceived to be a barrier to attendance at school, to speak with each other and form an effective working partnership with the parent/carer and child. This will ensure that the child (and wider family members if necessary) get the right blend of support in a timely way and therefore school attendance and learning does not suffer.

Our shared expectation now is that if you have a medical concern that you feel is limiting your school-aged child's attendance you specifically ask that the GP/School to speak. We are keen to work with you and will find a way to help move whatever the issue/concern is forward.

Thank you in advance for your continued support. We look forward to further collaborative working

A.Whitehead
Headteacher,
Bohunt School
Worthing

P.Panayiotou
Headteacher
Worthing High School

C.Woodcock
Head of School
Durrington High
School

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School

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